

## THREE CROSSES.

Dr. Talmage Discourses on the Redemption of the Race.

A TOPIC SUGGESTED BY

The Famous Paintings of Munich Types of Humanity Represented by the Two Malefactors.

The famous paintings in the picture galleries of Munich seem to have suggested the topic of this discourse, which Dr. Talmage reads from the quaint Bavarian text, but the theme which inspired the painter awakens in the great preacher thoughts of the redemption of the human race, which was the supreme design of that scene of suffering and death. The text is Luke xlii, 33, "There they crucified him and the malefactor, one on the right hand and the other on the left."

Just outside of Jerusalem is a swell of ground, toward which a crowd ascends for it is the day of execution. What a mighty assemblage! Some for curiosity to hear what the malefactors will say and to see how they will act. The three persons to be executed are already there. Some of the spectators are vile of lip and blood of cheek. Some look up with reverence, hardly able to keep their hands off the sufferers. Some tear their own hair in a frenzy of grief. Some stand in silent horror. Some break out into uncontrollable weeping. Some clap their hands in delight that the offenders are to be punished at last. The soldiers, with drawn swords, drive back the people who press on so hard. There is fear that the proceedings may be interrupted. Let the legion, now stationed at Jerusalem, on horseback dash along the line and force back the surging multitude. "Back with you!" is the cry. "Have you never before seen a man die?"

Three crosses in a row—an upright piece, and two transverse pieces—one on the top, and the hands are nailed, and one at the middle, on which the victim sat. Three trees just planted, yet bearing fruit—the one at the right bearing poison and the one at the left bitter aloes, the one in the middle apples of love. Norway pine and tropical orange and Lebanon cedar would not make so strange a grove as this orchard of Calvary. Stand and give a look at the three crosses.

Just look at the cross on the right. Its victim dies screaming. More awful than his physical anguish is his scorn and hatred of him on the middle cross. This wretched man turns half around on the spikes to hiss at the One in the middle. If the sufferer could get one hand loose and he would reach, he would smite the middle sufferer. He hates him with a perfect hatred. I think he wishes he were down on the ground that he might spear him. He envies the mechanics who have their nails nailed him fast. Amid the setting darkness and louder than the crash of the rocks hear him utter these words: "Ah, you poor wretch! I knew you were a hypocrite. You pretended to be a God, and yet you wish these legions master you!" It was in some such hate that Voltaire in his death hour, because he thought he saw Christ in his bedroom, got upon his elbow and cried out, "Crush that wretch!" What had the middle cross done to arouse up this right hand cross? Nothing. Oh, the enmity of the natural heart against Christ! He looks like a sentimental Christ or a philanthropic Christ, but a Christ who comes to snatch men away from their sins—away with him! On his right hand cross today I see typified the unbelief of the world. Men say: "Back with him from the heart! I will not let him take my sins. If he will die, let him die for himself, not for me. There has always been a war between this right hand cross and the middle cross, and wherever there is an unbelieving heart there the fight goes on. Oh, when that dying malefactor perished, then that tree which yields poison would have budded and blossomed with life for all the world."

Look up into that disturbed countenance of the sufferer and see what a ghastly thing it is to reject Christ. Behold in that awful face, in that pitiful look, in that unblest death hour, the stings of the sinner's departure. What a plunge into darkness! Standing high upon the cross on the top of the hill, so that all the world may look at him, he says, "Here I go out of a miserable life into a wretched eternity. Oh, Two Thieves! Listen to the crash of the fall, all ye ages! So Hobbes, dying after he had 70 years in which to prepare for eternity, said, 'Were I master of all the world, I would give it all to live one day longer.'" Sir Francis Newport, hovering over the brink, cried out: "Wretch that I am, whither shall I fly from this breach?" What will become of me, Oh, when I come to the point of the sword? We stood at the foot of the cross to see the favor of God, and yet to be reconciled to him again! Oh, eternity! Oh, eternity! Who can describe the abyss of eternity? Who can paraphrase these words, "Forever and forever?"

That right hand cross—thousands have perished on it in worse agony. For what is physical pain compared to remorse at the last that life has been wasted and only a fleeting moment stands between the soul and its everlasting overthrow? O God, let me die anywhere rather than at the foot of that right hand cross! Let not one drop of that blood fall upon my cheek. Read not my ear with that cry. I see it now as never before, the loathsomeness and horror of my unbelief. That dying malefactor was not so much to blame as I. Christianity was not established, and perhaps not until that day had that man heard the Christ. But after Christ has stood almost 19 centuries, working the wonders of his grace, you reject him.

That right hand cross, with its long beam, overshadows all the earth. It is planted in the heart of the race. When will the time come when the spirit of God shall, with its ax, level down that right hand cross until it shall fall at the foot of that middle cross, and unbelief, the railing malefactor of the world, shall perish from all our hearts? Away from me thou spirit of unbelief! I hate thee! What this sword of God! Thrust thee back! Thrust thee through. Down to hell; down, most accursed monster of the earth, and talk to those thou hast already damned! Talk no longer to these sons of God, these heirs of heaven.

"If thou be the Son of God," was there any "if" about it? Tell me, thou star, that in robust light didst run to point out his birthplace. Tell me, thou sea, that didst part thy head over thy lip when he bade thee be still. Tell

me, ye dead who got up to see his die. Tell me, ye angels in heaven, who for him didst pull down over thy face the veil of darkness. Tell me, ye lepers who were cleansed, ye dead who were raised, is he the Son of God? Aye, aye, responds the universe. The flowers breathe it; the stars chime it; the redeemed celebrate it; the angels rise on their throats to announce it. And yet on that middle cross a "thief" and how many shall be wrecked for all eternity! That little "if" has enough venom in its sting to cause the death of the soul. No "if" about it. I know it. Ecce Deus! I feel it thoroughly—through every muscle of the body, and through every faculty of my mind. Living! I will preach it; dying, I will pillow my head upon its consolations—Jesus the God!

Away then, from this right hand cross. The red berries of the forest are apt to be poisonous, and around this tree of carnage grow the red, poisonous berries of which many have tasted and died. I can see no use for this right hand cross, except it be used as a lever with which to upturn the unbelief of the world.

Here from the right hand cross I go to the left hand cross. Pass clear to the other side. That victim also twists himself upon the nails to look at the center cross, yet not to scoff. It is to worship. He, too, would like to get his hand loose, not to smite, but to deliver the sufferer of the middle cross. He cries to the railing sufferer on the other side: "Silence! Between us is innocence in agony. We suffer on one cross. Gather round this left hand cross, O ye people! But not afraid. Bitter herbs are sometimes a tonic for the body, and the bitter aloes that grow on this tree shall give strength and life to thy soul. This left hand cross is a repenting cross. As men who have been nearly drowned tell us that in one moment, while they were under the water, their whole life passed before them, I suppose in one moment the dying malefactor thought over all his past life—that of that night when he went into an unguarded door and took all the silver, the gold, the jewels, and as the sleeper stirred he put a knife through his heart; that of that day, in the lonely pass, he met the wayfarer, and, regardless of his own pursuers and the angry struggles of his victim, he flung the mangled corpse into the dust of the highway or heaped upon it the stones.

He says: "I am a guilty wretch. I deserve this. There is no need of my cursing. That will not stop the pain. There is no need of blaspheming Christ, for he has done me no wrong. And yet I cannot die. The tortures of my body are undone by the tortures of my soul. The past is a sense of misdoing, the future a crucifixion of the future, an everlasting undoing. Come back, thou hiding midday sun! Kiss my cheek with one bright ray of comfort. What, no help from above—no help from beneath? Then I must turn to my companions in sorrow, the One on the middle cross. I have heard that he knows how to help a man when he is in trouble. I have heard that he can cure the wounded. I have heard that he can pardon the sinner. Surely in all his wanderings up and down the earth he never saw one more in need of his forgiveness. Blessed God, I turn to thee. Wilt thou turn for the moment away from thy own pangs to pity me? Lord, it is not to have my hands relieved or my feet taken from the torture—I can stand all this—but, oh, my sin, my sin, my sin! Give me peace, my God, and give me this—let me see the face of the One who said, 'I will not let him take my sins. If he will die, let him die for himself, not for me. There has always been a war between this right hand cross and the middle cross, and wherever there is an unbelieving heart there the fight goes on. Oh, when that dying malefactor perished, then that tree which yields poison would have budded and blossomed with life for all the world.'"

Likewise must we repent. You say, "I have sinned nothing." I reply, "We have all been guilty of the mightiest felony of the universe, for we have robbed God of his glory, and we have robbed him of our talents, and we have robbed him of our services." Suppose you send a man out as an agent of your firm, and every month you pay him his salary, and at the end of ten years you find out that he has been serving another firm, but taking your salary, would you not at once condemn him as a dishonest? God sent us into this world to serve him. He has given us the waters of life. Yet how many of us have been serving another master! When a man is convicted of treason, he is brought out; a regiment surrounds him, and the command is given: "Attention, company! Take aim! Fire!" And the man falls with a hundred bullets through his heart. There comes a time in a man's history when the Lord calls up the troops of his iniquities, and he must stand and defend himself against a concentrated volley of torture.

I have shown you the right hand cross and the left hand cross, now come to the middle cross. We stood at the foot of the cross to see the favor of God, and yet to be reconciled to him again! Oh, eternity! Oh, eternity! Who can describe the abyss of eternity? Who can paraphrase these words, "Forever and forever?"

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## BOOKS ADOPTED.

For Use in the Public Schools of the State.

BY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Prices at Which Books Are to be Furnished to Dealers and Exchanged for Five Years.

The following is the list of books adopted by the State Board of Education for use in the public schools of South Carolina for the next five years. The first price quoted is the price to dealers and the second the exchange price:

READERS	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Johnson's Readers—B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va.	\$1.50	\$1.00
First reader.....	16	10
Second reader.....	24	16
Third reader.....	36	24
Fourth reader.....	48	32
Fifth reader.....	60	40
Total.....	\$1.51	\$1.00

HISTORIES	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Lee's Histories—B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va.	\$1.50	\$1.00
New Primary, cloth.....	40	25
New school, cloth.....	68	40

GRAMMARS	Price to Dealer	Exchange
I. Wheeler's Graded Studies in English—W. H. Wheeler & Co., Chicago Ill.—\$3; \$2.20.		
II. Buehler's, "A Modern English Grammar"—Newson & Co., New York (Provided index be made)—\$4.50; \$3.25.		
III. Reed & Kellogg's High School Grammar—Maynard, Merrill & Co., New York—\$4.50; \$3.25.		

GEOGRAPHIES	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Frye's Geographies—Ginn & Co., New York.		
I. Elementary—\$3.40; boards; \$1.75.		
II. Advanced, \$7.50; boards; \$3.75.		
Tarr's First Book of Physical Geography, (special edition for South Carolina)—Macmillan & Co., New York—\$8.75; cloth; \$5.50.		

ARITHMETICS	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Wentworth's—Ginn & Co., New York.		
I. Elementary, \$1.50; \$1.00.		
II. Practical, \$3.50; \$2.25.		
Brook's Mental Arithmetic—Christopher Sower & Co., Philadelphia, \$2.25; \$1.50.		

ALGEBRA	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Wentworth's Algebra—Ginn & Co., New York.		
I. First Steps in Algebra, \$4.50; \$3.25.		
II. New School Algebra, \$9.00; \$6.00.		
Brook's—Christopher Sower & Co., Philadelphia.		
Brook's Elementary, \$5.00; \$3.25.		

PHYSIOLOGY	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Hutchinson's—Maynard, Merrill & Co., New York.		
Our Wonderful Bodies, \$2.25; \$1.50.		
II. Our Wonderful Bodies, \$3.50; \$2.25.		
III. Physiology and Hygiene, \$3.00; \$2.00.		

NATURE STUDY AND AGRICULTURE	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Wilson's Nature Study in Elementary Schools—Macmillan Co., New York.		
I. First Reader, \$2.25; \$1.50.		
II. Second Reader, \$2.25; \$1.50.		
A Manual for Teachers, \$7.50; \$5.00.		
Bailey's First Lessons with Plants—Macmillan Co., \$3.25.		
Bailey's Principles of Agriculture, \$1.00; \$75.		

MUSIC	Price to Dealer	Exchange
The Normal Music Course—Silver Burdette & Co., New York.		
First reader, \$2.40; \$1.50.		
Second reader, \$4.50; \$3.00.		
Third reader, \$3.00; \$2.00.		
Songs of the Nations, \$4.50; \$3.00.		

DRAWING	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Normal Course in Drawing—Silver Burdette & Co.		
Books No. 1 to 2, \$7.25 per dozen; \$5.50 per dozen.		
Books No. 4 to 9, \$1.35 per dozen; \$1.00 per dozen.		
Blank Drawing Books, \$5.40 per dozen; \$4.35 per dozen.		

COPY BOOKS	Price to Dealer	Exchange
The Natural System of Vertical Writing—D. C. Heath & Co., New York.		
Numbers 1 to 6, 5 cents each; \$6.00 per dozen.		
Numbers 7 to 8, 6 3/4 cents each; \$8.00 per dozen.		
The Graphic System of Practical Penmanship (slant writing)—A. Lovell & Co.		
Numbers 1 to 6, large size, \$4.50 per dozen.		
Number 7, \$6.00 per dozen.		
Numbers 1 to 5 and tracing \$3.50.		

CIVIL GOVERNMENT	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Peterman's Elements of Civil Government—American Book Co., New York—\$4.50; \$3.00.		
William's Composition and Rhetoric by Practice—\$5.50; \$3.50.		

COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Myers' General History—Ginn & Co., New York—\$1.20; \$75.		
Cyrs, Ginn & Co.		
First.....	22	11
Second.....	29	15
Third.....	40	20
Fourth.....	48	24
Fifth.....	60	30

THE FOLLOWING WERE ADOPTED FOR LIBRARIES AND FOR LITERATURE STUDY	Price to Dealer	Exchange
English Classic Series—Maynard, Merrill & Co.		
The Riverside Literature Series—Houghton, Mifflin & Co.		
Star Series—Globe School Book Co. Macmillan's Pocket English Classics—Macmillan Co.		
Historical Tales—J. B. Lippincott & Co.		
The following were adopted for a teachers' course:		
White's School Management—American Book Co.		
White's Elements of Pedagogy—American Book Co.		
London's School and Class Management—Macmillan Co.		

SPELLING BOOKS	Price to Dealer	Exchange
I. English Words as Spoken and Written—Globe School Book Co., New York.		
II. Benson and Glenn's Speller and Definer—D. C. Heath & Co.—\$2.25; \$1.50.		

SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORY	Price to Dealer	Exchange
Chapman's History of South Carolina. Everett, Wadley Co., Richmond, Va. \$6.00.		

Webster's Dictionaries, A. B. C. Handy Dictionary, \$13; \$9.80. Primary Dictionary, \$36; \$24. Common School Dictionary, \$54; \$36. High School Dictionary, \$74; \$48. Academic Dictionary, \$113; \$75.

MAPS  
South Carolina map—Rand, McNally. Series of Maps—Rand McNally. The governor and Superintendent of education have been empowered and directed to fix the bonds of the companies.

THE CONTRACT.  
Superintendent McVahan prepared the following, which points out the main features of the contract made by the State with the publishers:

1. The adoption is to expire July 1st, 1906, after all schools are closed and just before they are opened. The present date of expiration is Nov. 1st, after most or all of the schools have begun and when therefore a change cannot be generally effected. A change in the new books will not be forced until July 1st, 1901. Hence the present school sessions will continue with the old books, and continuing with new books sold to pupils that have the old books will continue till Nov. 15th, 1901, after which time all the schools having opened and every pupil having had a chance to get rid of his old book, entire uniformity in books will prevail in the schools.

2. Price to dealer is to be printed on each book. The county superintendent in the counties where there are county depositories (nearly all the counties) will retail the books at this price. The private dealer will add his profit.

3. During the period of adoption an adopted book is sold or even offered for sale at a lower price anywhere in the world, that lowest price is to become the contract price in South Carolina. This was not in the old contract, but is required in most States that have recently made adoptions. Many of the books adopted in this State in 1893 for seven years are now sold elsewhere at lower prices, though we have been held to our contract price. By this clause in the new contract this State is at once freed of a low rate as now prevail anywhere else. For instance, we are offered the prices lately accepted by Tennessee and Washington in their State adoptions.

4. Books in the county depositories (sold at actual cost by the county superintendents) are to be taken up at cost by the publishers whose books are substituted. This is a protection of the school fund which by act of the legislature has been invested in books for sale at cost.

5. Publishers pay freight and drayage on all books where as much as \$25 worth is ordered at a time, and pay such transportation charges where the orders are as small as \$10 worth, if ordered by county superintendents. This small limit was put because if one only books were ordered the publisher should be paid books or algebras, the dealer might have to order a small quantity and should not be required to pay the freight. It would not be just to the publisher, however, to allow a dealer to harass him with a \$5 order on which the freight might more than equal the profit. The limit in the old contract was \$100 and many county superintendents have been compelled to pay the freight and add a few cents to the price of each book.

6. The affidavit and contract clause that the bidder is not in a trust constitutes a striking feature. This was suggested by the Indians law which has attracted considerable attention, but the affidavit here required goes much further in that it requires after the private holdings of stockholders and their belongings as trustees or beneficiaries, and further binds the publisher to show his private records if the truth of the affidavit is questioned. Moreover, the contract is void ab initio if any untrue statement enters into this affidavit or clause. This is a practical way to fight trusts.

Mud Volcanoes  
With roaring as of thunder and a great spouting of a mass of bluish-black liquefied earthy matter, the remarkable mud volcanoes of Mendocino county, Cal., again became active Friday. It is stated that spouting of mud from its crater is more frequent with tides of the ocean, and it is thought that they are either connected with the ocean by some subterranean channel or acted upon directly by the influence of the moon or whatever causes the ebb and flow of the tides of the sea. There are about 25 volcanoes in the group. The muddy craters are filled with bluish mud of about the consistency of boiling mud, and when active steam and bubble like boiling water and make a thunderous roar that can be heard for miles around. The disturbance is so violent that the mud belches forth over the rims of the craters, flowing down the mountain side. A warm vapor shoots high into the air, accompanied by the spouting mud.

Serious in England.  
A dispatch from Liverpool says the cotton market was feverish Wednesday and prices were irregular but they soon strengthened under the influence of the advance in prices in New York and unfavorable American crop reports. The spinners and manufacturers have been equipped with hopes that a good crop would insure prosperous business in 1901, but the diminished crop prospects and the delay in exportations from Galveston have aroused grave anxiety and are likely to lead to serious financial difficulties among the trade.

Good Riddance  
The Atlanta Journal says "if Corbett in his recent fight to England had taken along all the other ruffians who have been faking the American public in alleged prize fights for several years past he would have won an even larger measure of our gratitude. But to be rid of Corbett alone is something to be profoundly thankful for.

A Peculiar Accident.  
A dispatch from New York says during the prevalence of a high wind Wednesday a mast sustaining one end of a political banner suspended over Broadway was blown down, killing Charles Dunford of Birmingham, Ala., who was passing with his brother and a friend.

Both Killed.  
Minister Conger in answer to an enquiry about the fate of Rev. C. R. Hodge and wife, missionaries in China from Philadelphia, says both of them were killed at Pootung Fu by the Boxers.

Gainesville, Ga., Dec. 8, 1899  
Pitts' Antiseptic Invigorator has been used in my family and I am perfectly satisfied that it is all, and will do, you claim for it. Yours truly,  
A. B. C. Dorsey.

P. S.—I am using it now myself. It's doing me good.—Sold by The Murray Drug Co., Columbia, S. C., and all druggists.



GOVERNOR MILES B. MCSWEENEY, WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO SUCCEED HIMSELF BY ABOUT 14,000 MAJORITY

## THE COTTON GROWERS

Of South Carolina Have Perfected their Organization.

The cotton growers convention met at Greenwood on last Thursday Mr. Wilborn, after reading the call for the convention issued by him several weeks ago, made a talk setting forth the objects of the organization it was proposed to form and the benefits to be derived. All classes are interested in the prosperity of the farmer, he said, and for that reason men of all lines of business and professions in the State had been invited to attend the convention and participate in its deliberations. Continuing, he said it is a shame the way the cotton crop of the south has been marketed for the past 20 years. As a general thing the cotton has been thrown on the market as soon as gathered, without regard to price. The uninformed or inexperienced men always suffer. The time is more opportune now than for 20 years to perfect an organization and remedy this evil. Last year there was an unprecedented short crop and the surplus was exhausted, and the crop this year is even less than that of last year. Today the cotton planter has a corner on the crop because the surplus has been exhausted. We are now in a position we have never occupied before—the world wants more cotton than we have to sell. If we will organize now in an earnest and intelligent manner we can not only control the price now but in the future. He said it was proposed to devise a scheme by which the cotton crop of the south could be marketed throughout the twelve months of the year instead of thrown upon the market at one time and sold within two or three months. This movement is intended to fight the speculators and not the legitimate buyer and the manufacturers. A well-known cotton mill man said a few days ago that he hoped this movement would succeed, as it would be better for the mills to be able to buy their cotton as needed. Under the present system of marketing the crop the mills of the south are forced into the market in the fall as speculators. No man can tell what will be the price of cotton goods six, eight or ten months ahead, and when the mills are forced to buy a few months' supply at a time when they are forced to allow a margin to protect themselves against unfavorable fluctuations in the price of cotton goods. This association is not intended to fight or injure the cotton mills; on the contrary, they are asked to cooperate with us. The prosperity of all classes depends on the prosperity of the farmer, and it is only proposed now to enable the farmers to secure a fair price for their crop. The value of the cotton crop regulates the value of everything in the south. There should not and will not be any conflict between the southern cotton grower and the southern cotton manufacturer. There 105,000,000 cotton spindles in the world, and of these only 5,000,000 are in the south. The southern mills cannot wholly regulate the price of cotton if they so desired, because they are not strong enough.

At the conclusion of Mr. Wilborn's speech the convention was formally organized by the election of J. C. Wilborn, of Columbia, as president; J. A. Peterkin, of Orangeburg, as vice president; and J. N. Biske, of Abbeville, as secretary. Hon. C. H. Jordan, president of the Georgia association, was present, and by request gave the details and plan of the organization in Georgia. Mr. Jordan was the originator of the movement in his State and has recently organized a similar association in Alabama. He outlined the plan of the organization in much the same manner as given in his speech of Thursday, as reported in The State Friday. On motion, the president was authorized to appoint an executive committee consisting of three from each congressional district, to push the work of organizing the different counties. The convention adopted the constitution and by-laws of Georgia association, these to be in effect until the next meeting of the association. The convention then adjourned to meet in Columbia during fair week, the hour and place of meeting to be announced later by the president. President Wilborn Friday afternoon announced the appointment of the following executive committee as authorized by the convention: First district—T. M. Talbird, Beaufort; Geo. A. Wagner, Charleston; M. R. Cooper, Colleton. Second district—L. W. Youmans, Fairfield; T. H. Rainford, Edgefield; W. H. Mauldin, Hampton. Third district—J. Malcolm Johnson, Newberry; C. P. Roberts, Ninety-Six; J. R. Vandiver, Anderson. Fourth district—J. D. M. Shaw, High Point; J. B. Stepp, Spartanburg; Willie Jones, Columbia. Fifth district—R. A. Love, Chester; W. J. Roddy, Rock Hill; J. F. Nesbit, Lancaster. Sixth district—P. L. Breeden, Bennettsville; J. E. Edwards, Marion; D. H. Traxler, Timmonsville. Seventh district—D. F. Eldred, Lexington; J. W. H. Dukes, Orangeburg; Harvey Wilson, Sumter.